

HOOVER ADMISSION OF A MISTAKE LED TO APPOINTMENT

Told Harding in Letter Criticism of His Work in War Was Justified.

PLEADED FOR WALLACE.

Told President-elect Opposition to Iowa Should Not Prevent Appointment.

By David Lawrence.
(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (Copyright, 1921).—Herbert Hoover's acceptance of the Portfolio of Secretary of Commerce has been, on the whole, well received in the national capital, though the men in Congress who have opposed him from the start still maintain certain misgivings concerning the selection. They do not doubt Mr. Hoover's ability, but they question the compatibility of his temperament in any institution like a Presidential Cabinet where the element of political plays so important a part.

A story is being told at the Capitol of a conversation that took place at St. Augustine recently between Mr. Harding and a United States Senator who went there to oppose the appointment of Mr. Hoover. The President-elect defended Mr. Hoover warmly and answered the objection concerning Mr. Hoover's inflexibility by showing his visitor a copy of a letter received from the former Food Administrator.

In that communication Mr. Hoover said he had noted the criticisms which were being made of the possible selection of Henry C. Wallace for Secretary of Agriculture, and he hoped Mr. Harding would not be dissuaded from appointing Mr. Wallace because of that criticism. Mr. Hoover went on to say that during the war he himself had been severely criticized by Mr. Wallace, who as the editor of a farm journal had a good many things to say about the Food Administration.

HOOVER ADMITTED HE MADE A MISTAKE.

Then Mr. Hoover in his letter wrote substantially as follows:

"Looking back now over what happened during the war, I have come to the conclusion that Mr. Wallace was right and I was wrong."

The President-elect pointed to that sentence as evidence that Mr. Hoover is a broad-minded man and that when he was wrong he did not hesitate to acknowledge it. That letter is said to have had more to do with the selection of Mr. Hoover than anything else.

Obviously speaking, the opposition to Mr. Hoover cannot be said to have been mollified by Mr. Harding's display of confidence in the former Food Administrator. The scepticism that their judgment has been confirmed by the attitude which Mr. Hoover assumed when the portfolio was tendered him. The critics say it was unwise for Mr. Hoover to ask questions about the Cabinet portfolio before agreeing to accept and that it was a mistake for Mr. Hoover to have been so open to the criticism of his own position.

At bottom the opposition to Mr. Hoover is really political and has its origin in the fact that the former Food Administrator issued a statement supporting President Wilson's appeal for the re-election of the Democratic Congress. Politicians rarely forget such things and wherever the Hoover statement was used to the disadvantage of members of Congress in that campaign there is still a rankling.

HOOVER MIGHT BECOME A FACTOR IN 1924.

Naturally there was another angle to be taken into consideration that Mr. Hoover outside the Cabinet might grow into a potent political factor in readiness for 1924, that he could play the role of critic without sharing the burdens of responsibility. On the other hand, the presence of Mr. Hoover in the Cabinet will make him part and parcel of the Harding Administration. He will stand by fall by the Harding record so long as he is a member of the Cabinet. And if he stays until 1924, then the old political adage will be invoked: If Harding has made good, he himself is entitled to renomination. If he hasn't made good, no member of his Cabinet deserves the nomination any more than the Chief Executive.

On such a line of political reasoning, even the opponents of Mr. Hoover in Congress are inclined to accept Mr. Harding's decision as perhaps best under the circumstances. Now the question is: What will Mr. Hoover do with the Department of Commerce, and will he make good? Because of the very controversy which has been going on it is a safe prediction that Herbert Hoover will from the beginning move under the scrutiny of the nation's eyes more than any other

33 CITIES OF STATE JOIN IN PROTEST ON TRANSIT BILL

Legal Advisers Point Out Menace to Home Rule in Miller Traction Plan.

MAYORS WILL ACT.

Conference Called at Albany on March 2, Date Set for Legislative Hearing.

By Joseph S. Jordan.
(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Feb. 25.—Thirty-three cities in New York State have officially protested the Miller transit programme as a menace to home rule. The conference of Mayors yesterday adopted resolutions of opposition and will be officially represented at the hearing on the bill next Wednesday.

Fearful of the result of this opposition added to that of the New York representatives in the Legislature the sponsors of the measure have drafted several amendments and will offer them probably on Monday night.

One of these will provide there shall be no increased fare on the traction lines of Greater New York until the Miller programme has been put into operation.

Another is designed to make the decision of the to-be-created Rapid Transit Commission as binding on the traction companies as on the city. As the bill was introduced, the understanding of a number of legislators is that if the companies would not agree upon the proposition submitted to them by the commission they need not accept it.

Several minor amendments are to be added, the purpose of which is to straighten out mechanical defects in the bill. The latter in its amended form, it is said, will be ready for the public hearing which is to be given in the Assembly Chamber on next Wednesday afternoon.

SEE "INCONSISTENCY" IN MILLER'S STAND.

Some of the legislators who listened to the hearing of the Theatre Ticket Scalping Bill before the Governor yesterday are expressing doubt on the Governor's consistency with regard to the scalpers' bills and the traction bill. They claim to see where the Governor is reversing himself in taking opposite sides on two similar propositions.

"Louis Marshall at that hearing," said one of the solons to-day, "laid great stress on the statement that the State might as well try to fix the prices of food, clothes and other necessities or commodities as to pin down the scalpers as to what commission they should charge on theatre tickets."

"The Governor bore out the lawyer, and in fact later quoted his own words," said Gov. Miller in assuming to set a price for riding on our own railroads, invoking the police power of the State to do so. It seems to me that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. I don't assume to know the law as well as does the Governor, but it is a poor rule that does not work both ways."

The hearing on next Wednesday promises to be one of the most remarkable as well as one of the most important ever attended at the Capitol. The hour for it has been set for 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when it is expected that the biggest lobby ever gathered in Albany will be in the Assembly Chamber.

Whether anybody else out Senator Hiram Johnson will present the case for the city has not been learned here yet, but it is not supposed that there will be any of the legal lights from the traction companies supporting the measure on the floor of the House. They will do their supporting, according to information, in other directions.

The Conference of Mayors is to hold its midwinter session here on the day set for the traction hearing. Preliminary to this the corporation councils were called upon to give their views upon the traction bill at a meeting yesterday. The legal advisers of thirty-three cities of the State pointed out either personally or by letter objectionable features in the bill and a resolution was adopted opposing the measure.

The feature of the bill most severely criticised was that most severely criticised was that it would deprive the Board of Estimate of New York City of the authority of other cities of power to veto a revision of franchise contracts carrying a five-cent fare stipulation. This was attacked from all angles and by Corporation Councils from small and large cities alike. Corporation Council Lessor of Batavia, county seat of the Town of Batavia, sponsor for the Miller bill in the Senate, provoked applause when he protested:

"This is another Boston Tea Party with the municipalities playing the role of the colonies so far as the automatic and revolutionary legislation is concerned. Batavia is opposed to the Transit Bill in its present shape. It means taxation without representation."

TRAFFIC HELD UP TWICE IN 2 WEEKS; TOTAL PUNISH \$59

Bandits in Illinois Cut Off Mail Car and Get Registered Letters and Pouch.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Feb. 25.—Posters to-day are coming the Mississippi River bottom near Quincy Junction, thirty-seven miles west of here, where four men, armed with rifles, held up "The Hummer," the fast Chicago and Alton passenger train from Kansas City to Chicago, early this morning and escaped after forcing the mail clerk to hand over three registered letters and a registered package.

Reports received at the division offices of the railroad here indicate the amount stolen by the bandits will not exceed \$50.

Message Ayers saved several hundred dollars in express remittances, by hiding the pouch containing the money when the bandits ordered the door of the mail car opened.

The train is the same one held up two weeks ago at almost the same spot, when the bandits obtained \$9 from members of the train crew. It is believed the same men were implicated in both hold-ups. Ayers said one of the men looked like a participant in the previous hold-up.

The robbers gained more than two hours' start when the possessors began the search.

ANTICS OF GHOST DRIVE AGED WOMAN FROM HER HOME

(Continued From First Page.)

which had not been there when the family fled. The nature of the cracks indicated that the wood had been rent asunder by a sudden shock of great force.

One freak of the ghost was to juggle the silver. Knives and forks floated upward from the dining table and at least one spoon is said to have been seen floating out a window. Buttons on Mrs. Low's dress floated in the air, hovered there a few moments and then came to rest on the floor.

Miss Effie Low, a daughter, who had been called to her mother's home, says her hat and coat were slowly lifted into the air, as if supported by ghostly hands, and followed her out of a room.

Suggestions that boys playing pranks had used wires or other mechanical means to cause the "strange manifestations" were met with the answer that such a possibility had been fully investigated.

Several citizens were dared to spend a night in the house, but what ever they believed about the "ghost" they did not take the dare.

Old residents say that fifty years ago the house now occupied by the Lowes was reported to be the abiding place of ghosts. One man who claimed he had seen "neither man or devil" moved into the house with the intention of staying. He moved hastily in three days, declining to explain his hurry.

CARUSO HAS A BIRTHDAY.

Tenor Receiving Congratulations; 48 Years Old; Bulletin Favorable.

Who's Who says Enrico Caruso's birthday is to-day. According to his business associates he will not be forty-eight years old until Sunday. Meanwhile the friends of the famous tenor evidently intend to make a three-day celebration of it. Bundles of letters and telegrams are being sent along with huge bouquets of flowers at the Hotel Vanderbilt.

His physicians issued a bulletin at 11 o'clock this morning which was a real birthday present. It reads:

"Mr. Caruso is progressing favorably. The course of his disease is slowly but steadily improving."

His brother, Giovanni, is on the Pacific coast, due here shortly.

BLAME COLD FOR BLAST.

Two Bodies Recovered From Bombed Lehigh Valley Engine.

The bodies of John McGee, conductor, No. 201 Clark Street, Jersey City, and William McCauley, brakeman, No. 11 Erie Street, Jersey City, killed when the boiler of a Lehigh Valley Railroad locomotive exploded last night in the Jersey City yards, were recovered from the wreckage to-day and removed to the morgue. A third man died on the way to the hospital and a fourth is dying.

An investigation will be made by railroad officials to-day. People who viewed the results of the accident state possibly the water was allowed to run too low in the boiler. Another theory advanced is that the engine became frozen, stopping the circulation of water.

DYNAMITE SHIP AGROUND.

BILBAO, Spain, Feb. 25.—A panic was created among the seashore villagers yesterday when the steamer Galley with 100 tons of dynamite on board, crashed off Bilbao. Scores of families left their homes, taking their furniture and live stock with them. The fishermen returning from voyages immediately put back to sea.

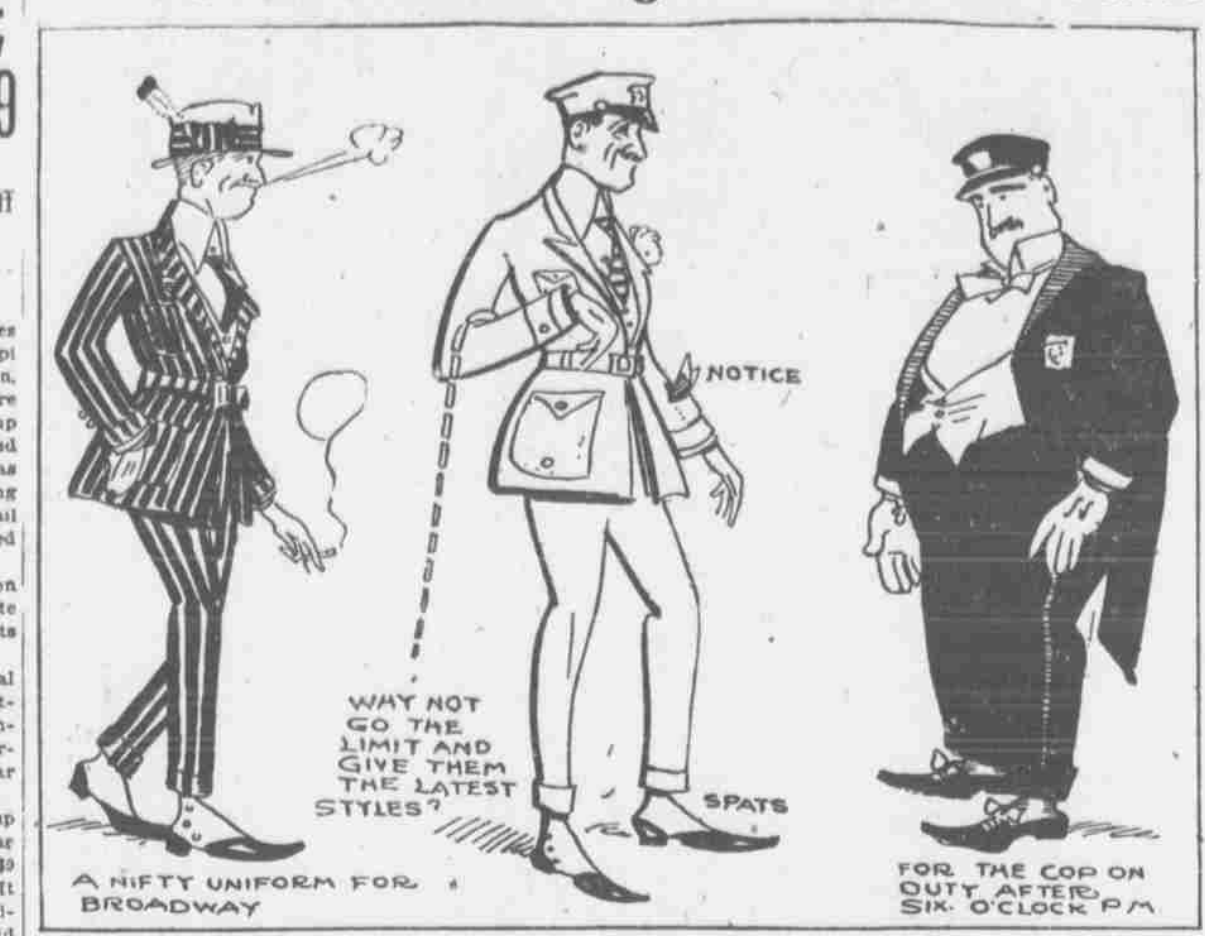
Laborers were afraid to go aboard to unload the dynamite, notwithstanding offers of high wages. The Governor, however, summoned workmen from a nearby explosive factory and brought the dynamite ashore.

Returning Seaplanes at Punta Arenas. SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—The first squadron of seaplanes of the Pacific fleet arrived at Punta Arenas at 10:45 A. M. yesterday, according to the Navy radio station here. The squadron is part of the fleet of seaplanes returning to San Diego from Panama.

The seaplanes left Colon yesterday on their return flight.

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Style Suggestions for New York Police To Go With Enright's Trouser Cuffs



The order of Commissioner Enright that summer trousers of members of the police force have two and a half inch cuffs has roused some of the cops to levity. The picture offers suggestions that may enable the Commissioner further to embellish his men sartorially.

He could require a Broadway uniform—something nifty in a wide stripe or check, hat band to match, with a feather stuck jauntily into it. The very latest style uniform could be of any modish cloth, with cane and spats, while the policeman on duty after 6 P. M. could have regulation evening dress, except for his cap.

STOLEN GEMS USED TO GET BAIL, SAYS INQUIRY REPORT

Proof Missing, Declares Magistrate Simpson, Who Hopes Firms Will Continue.

Magistrate George W. Simpson, who conducted a John Doe inquiry following a letter from Mayor Hylan intimating criminals were putting up stolen property as surety for bail bonds, filed his report with District Attorney Swann to-day.

Magistrate Simpson reported while it had not been legally proved, he was "morally certain some professional bondsmen and indemnitors had accepted stolen jewels, bonds, merchandise or cash as security for bail bonds." He urged they be driven out of business.

As a result of the inquiry, Magistrate Simpson said, the surety companies have a committee at work on plans to remove the abuses. They are considering discontinuing the criminal bail bond business, but the Magistrate says this step would be unfortunate.

The report says some companies accept extra fees in addition to the regular 2 per cent. rate. One case was shown of a woman who said she had paid \$450 for two bail bonds of \$3,000 each. She declared she gave a chattel mortgage on her apartment and was compelled by the surety company to have her furs in storage, paying a \$50 storage fee. In another case 15 per cent was paid for a \$300 bond furnished at night. In justice to the companies, Magistrate Simpson said, many of the extra charges were made without knowledge of their officers.

Magistrate Simpson urged persons working on commission be prohibited from furnishing bail bonds and lawyers be prohibited from signing indemnity agreements in criminal cases. He also advocated raising a private fund to care for the worthy poor after they have been examined and given bail. He said this should be undertaken by some philanthropist.

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NEW ENFORCEMENT PLAN FOR DRY LAW BEING DISCUSSED

Contemplates Centralization of Responsibility and Authority Under Attorney General.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—A new plan for enforcement of Prohibition is being discussed among Republican leaders as a prospective policy of the Harding Administration. It contemplates abolishing the present dual enforcement machinery of the Department of Treasury and Justice and the centralization of full responsibility and authority under the Attorney General.

Some Republican leaders in the confidence of the President-elect say this plan may be one of the early announcements in the new Administration's programme for reorganization of Government agencies. Harry M. Daugherty, who is to be Attorney General, is known to have discussed the subject during recent conferences at the Capitol.

Whether the plan contemplates retention of a Federal Prohibition Commissioner has not been definitely determined. It is understood, however, under the proposed plan, that all State Prohibition enforcement agents would be dispensed with and the work of enforcement left to the Department of Justice, through United States District Attorneys and their local or augmented assistants.

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 25.—Harry M. Daugherty to-day refused to discuss proposed changes in the Federal Prohibition enforcement machinery. While admitting changes have been talked over among Republican leaders, he said nothing definite had been decided upon and any such changes would have to be authorized by Congress.

WEEKS WILL PUSH WATER-POWER PLAN

Incoming Secretary of War Declares This Is One of Most Important Problems.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Immediately after March 4 Secretary of War Weeks will take action to start great water power projects, he indicated to-day.

Weeks, as Secretary of War, will be a member of the Water Power Commission, charged with administering the Water Power Act.

"I am told that not a single permit has been issued for development as yet," said Weeks.

"There are projects proposed, which, if they were all undertaken, would represent a capital outlay of \$2,000,000,000 or more. Getting this water power commission to functioning is one of the most important problems that will confront the next administration."

HOLD-UP SUSPECTS UNDER \$550,000 BAIL

Bonds of Four Men Held for Mail Train Robbery Increased Again.

TOLEDO, Feb. 25.—Bail for four suspects held in last week's \$1,600,000 post office hold-up here was raised a second time to-day by United States Commissioner Gaines. Bail for Charles Schultz, who was arrested yesterday, was placed at \$150,000.

The figure for Joe Urbaytis, first put at \$25,000 and later raised to \$100,000, now stands at \$175,000, and the bail for his brother, Frank Urbaytis, is \$125,000. Joseph Culbert must furnish \$100,000 or remain locked up.

Attorneys for the suspects asked for an immediate hearing.

HARDING DEFERS TO WILSON.

Leaves to President Details of Participation in Inauguration.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—President-elect Harding has written President Wilson expressing a desire to leave all details of the inauguration so far as they affect the President to Mr. Wilson. It was said to-day at the White House.

Officials said it was presumed that Mr. Harding would call at the White House on the morning of March 4 and accompany the President to the Capitol.

DRY LAW CULPRITS IN GRAND RUSH TO "NO JAIL" JUDGE

Eighty-Five Plead Guilty on Announcement of No Prison Term for First Offenders.

Judge John C. Pollock of Kansas City, on the last day of his assignment to this city, was a popular jurist in the United States District Court to-day.

Saloonkeepers and bartenders accused of violating the Volstead Act flocked to his court in droves, and milled like hardtimers in a subway crush for a chance to appear before him and plead guilty.

There were several reasons. In the first place Judge Pollock announced in open court last Wednesday he would not impose jail sentences on first offenders against the Volstead Act. In the second place offenders who had been stalling off their appearance for months before judges known to favor prison sentences for first offenses experienced sudden contrition and everything. When they heard what Judge Pollock's sentiments were they craved his acquaintance. And in the third place, as mentioned above it was Judge Pollock's last day and he may experience a change of opinion before he comes back again.

There were 105 Volstead Act violation cases on the calendar. Of these eighty-five were called. Every one of the eighty-five offenders pleaded guilty—an unprecedented record. Generally the majority of pleas are the other way.

Judge Pollock inflicted fines of \$100 on those who admitted they sold liquor and fines of \$50 on those who admitted they had been caught in the possession of liquor. The total in fines collected by the clerk amounted to \$7,550. Needless to say there was a lot of good cheer around the United States District Court.

Judge Pollock is regarded by United States District Attorneys as one of the best District Judges. He is noted for his independence as well as for his knowledge of the Federal laws.

Wednesday was to have been Volstead Act violation pleading day in the District Court, but Judge Pollock, because of the disarrangement of schedules caused by Washington's Birthday, put pleadings over until to-day. At the same time he announced he did not believe in making criminals of first offenders against the Volstead Act by sending them to jail.

All the Judges permanently stationed in this district are under agreement to send first offenders to jail. Judge Learned Hand, for instance, has been imposing jail sentences and \$50 fines besides. Judge Pollock, as a visitor, was not bound by the agreement.

It's packed with zest and jazz and joy. Puts pep in your palate and—oh, boy! What am I talking of? Don't tease! but—

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Quality higher than the price, instead of price higher than the quality. Full-belted, with convertible collar, in colorful tweeds and chevrons, with silk yoke and sleeves. But the big thing in these little coats is the Wearmoor workmanship, which is a revelation of sound, solid, serviceable tailoring. Ages 3 to 10 years.

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